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WRL News

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The Middle East Challenge For The Eighties

By Allan Solomonow

The Middle East looms before us as the Vietnam of the eighties—with a vengeance. Yet it has been met by Americans with clammoring silence and by most of the peace community—with fear.

A decade after the winding down of Vietnam, the "lessons" for Americans are a more important part of our media, literature and "contemporary chic" than anything else. Politically we have returned to a pre-Vietnam consciousness: a tired, naivete resistant to direct action, at least for matters far away from home.

The implications of the Middle East dwarf into insignificance the interest our policy-makers once had in "Nam". The Middle East harbours one of the most strategic resources in the world. The flow of that oil is the single greatest factor determining the course of our domestic economy and our international policy. If we must build our supply of tactical nukes, forge a strategic Rapid Deployment Force, have a draft, abandon SALT, or confront the Soviet Union in armed challenge, the reason will be the Middle East.

The current conflagration between Iraq and Iran will probably recede by the end of the year. What has happened has provided the hints of nightmarish scenarios. Iran and Iraq, two powerful nations with vast oil reserves, are fighting each other with *both* American and Soviet weapons. Each is being assisted by allies of *both* the United States and the Soviet Union. With the weapons we have given them these are nations that could easily draw us into a war.

The Superpowers cannot control Israel or the Arab states. By manipulating them in an attempt for strategic control we are risking an unprecedented international brinksmanship. What will set it off? Israelis and Palestinians clashing? Afghanistan? The fall of the Saudi monarchy? A coup in

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Anti-Draft Actions Slated for January

Anti-draft rally, NY February 1980 *Photo © Lawrence Frank*

Anti-draft groups are gearing up for the final period of *mass* draft registration, scheduled at Post Offices around the country from January 5-9, 1981.

Last July men born in 1960 and 1961 registered for the draft during a two week period. Selective Service has estimated that 7% or 280,000 men did not register. Other less biased sources place the real figure closer to 25% or *one million non-registrants.*

So far none of the nonregistrants have been prosecuted. The Government is waiting for their preliminary figures to be refined, the outcome of the Presidential election, and a Supreme Court decision as to the constitutionality of registering men but not women.

The January 5-9 period is for registration of all men born in 1962. Thereafter, registration will be required as men turn 18. That is why this first week in January is a crucial period to demonstrate.

In New York City, preliminary plans are for a rally at the main Post Office on Monday, January 5, followed by a march to the main military recruiting office in Times Square with the intention to shut it down using civil disobedience. In addition, a strike will be called for that Monday in all schools. Those who cannot go on strike will be encouraged to wear arm bands protesting the registration and war moves by the United States.

WRL has just come out with a slightly revised and corrected version of its pamphlet *Don't Go! The Case for Registration Resistance.* Single copies are 35¢, or 10 for $3, or 100 for $15 (plus postage).

The Middle East

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Syria? Israeli bombing in Southern Lebanon? The stated policy of our nation is a readiness to intervene militarily if *we* believe *we* must. And there is no crying out to halt our inexorable slide in that direction.

The United States through Camp David has placed itself at the center of Middle East diplomacy. The remainder of the world with all of the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict have based their response upon American initiatives—or a lack of them.

In its diplomacy, the United States has assiduously avoided any diplomacy that would bring about a comprehensive peace based upon the participation of all parties and a resolution of all of their grievances. While Jerusalem and civilian settlements have become a *fait accompli* for the Israeli government, the Palestinians, the Soviets and the U.N. remain frozen out of any peace process.

This has not dimmed the basis for reconciliation. More than ever there are serious forces within Israel and amongst Palestinians calling for a mutual settlement encompassing justice, peace and security for each in a state of their own.

A majority of Israelis favor giving up the territories in exchange for peace. Around a quarter of Israelis generally support the work of the popular "Peace Now" movement of Israeli officers whose theme is that "Peace is greater than a greater Israel." In massive demonstrations, they have turned out a higher percentage of the Israeli population than our anti-war movement did at its height! Sheli, the Israeli Peace Party, has called for direct negotiations with the PLO leadership. And representatives of the Israeli Communist Party (RAKAH) have recently met with Arafat, once again eliciting from him a commitment to a Palestinian State that would guarantee Israeli security. Even the Mapam Party, part of the traditional Israeli ruling coalition, has left the door open to negotiations with the PLO.

All of these voices however, are not the voices of the Israeli government or its predecessor each of whom have steadfastly said that they would negotiate with the PLO *only* on the battlefield.

Despite the door for any independent state or even negotiations having been closed by the Israeli government, the PLO has remained clearly, openly and often bitterly divided over the course of its future. Arafat has supported the struggle for a more moderate policy holding forth for diplomacy as an alternative to confrontation and terror. Leaders of the PLO have met with Israelis and American Jews to affirm a mutual basis for possible peace negotiations between the PLO and the Israeli government. In early 1979, in a meeting with four American pacifists, the PLO Foreign Minister Farouk Kaddoumi, reviewed a memo that had been conveyed to the United States offering a mutual settlement guaranteeing Israeli security. This made front-page news in the Israeli press, but virtually none here.

Unquestionably, the PLO remains divided and continues to sanction terror. The government of Israel is not divided and has vigorously pursued a policy of more settlements and Jewish-Arab confrontation. While the terror of each plays into the hands of the most extreme, there are peacemakers on both sides. On the Palestinian side they appear to carry more weight among leadership and on the Israeli side they are influential but outside government circles.

What both Palestinian and Israeli peacemakers share is a realization that, for better or worse, any peace initiatives are likely to come from the United States influenced by the American public, which to this point has shied away from supporting them.

Why has the American peace community declined to pick up the challenge from our counterparts in the Middle East? Where is the spirit that once brought tens of thousands of Americans out to try to bring peace to the peoples of Southeast Asia?

For our part, the legacy of Indochina has drained our energy and hope. We could not bring *peace*. And our national policy has only found better ways to avoid direct confrontation while trying to buy friendship and stability through military hardware. Now, at an extraordinary time to have a real impact, we are disspirited over what we can do.

For those that have sought to undo the lessons of Vietnam, the Middle East has become the most effective instrument in bringing Americans back to a policy of intervention through strength. Even much of the Jewish community has been persuaded to leave its traditionally liberal stance and support an American-Israeli alliance against communism.

The Middle East *is* frightfully complex. It involves not one but *two* peoples seeking national liberation. The Middle East arouses intense passion. The major challenges to the peace community cannot be seriously confronted until the Middle East is a leading item on our agenda.

We have no excuses now that American Jews and Arabs are themselves beginning to work for peace. The pioneering work done by the Middle East Peace Project and the AFSC has been picked up by new national Jewish organizations and Arab groups. One fruit of this renewed contact has been a broad coalition including Arabs, Jews, Christians and Blacks who have been meeting for several months to try to find a common ground for education and possible action.

Certainly there are resources, speakers and ideas ready to bring to Americans the hopes and plans that are already being discussed at great length in the Middle East. Peace and religious groups must begin to come together in each community to provide a common forum in which to explore the alternatives for peace and systematically question the many "emasculating" statements partisans of each side submit to avoid that sorely needed dialogue.

We need to start with educating ourselves, initiating some continuing dialogue, and hearing directly of the work of others, especially those visiting from the Middle East, who have been experiencing the difficulty as being both for Israel *and* the Palestinian people. MEPP and most AFSC regional offices can help to direct you towards the many resources and possibilities for training you may need.

Allan Solomonow is the Director of the Middle East Peace Project and on the WRL Executive Committee.

Argentinian Pacifist Gets Nobel Award

Adolfo Perez Esquivel, Argentinian pacifist, has received the Novel Peace Prize for 1980. A few years ago, when he was jailed for 14 months without a hearing, WRL campaigned for his release and demonstrated at the Argentinian consulate in New York.

The Nobel committee stated "Perez Esquivel is among those Argentinians who have shone a light in the darkness. He champions a solution of Argentina's grievous problems that dispenses with use of violence, and is the spokesman of a revival of respect of human rights." He heads Servicio Paz y Justicia en America Latina, which has assisted peasants seeking land and workers seeking improved conditions. The list of human rights groups he has organized here and worked with in countries such as Chile, Paraguay, Brazil and El Salvador is long.

WRL Locals & Regional Offices

By Grace Hedemann

WRL Locals have increased rapidly in the last year. In the coming months *WRL NEWS* will publish a "Local Organizing" column to share the excitement and impact of these groups on their communities.

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Foothills WRL (Ft. Collins, Colorado) co-sponsored an action at the local post office during July registration. The groups action was very successful—less than half of the perspective registrants registered.

Besides continuing to work within the local anti-nuclear alliance, Foothills participates in a city-wide Interfaith Peace Task Force. Activities this year will focus on peace education projects, conversion of Rocky Flats, and a call to local churches to peacemaking vocations.

Foothills is sponsoring a series of public forums this fall. Within a month the group will have a student affiliated chapter at Colorado State University. While Ft. Collins continues to be a rather conservative community. WRLers enthusiasm keeps the group going.

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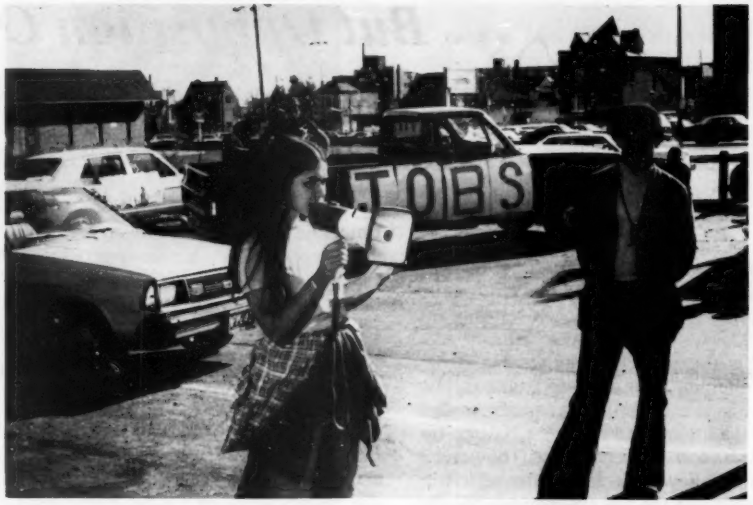
Oak Park WRL (Oak Park, Illinois) responded to a Nazi held rally on September 27th by participating in a counter-demonstration which drew 300 people. George Dear, WRL member, replied to an editorial in *Oak Leaves* to ignore the Nazi demonstrations by saying, *"Oak Leaves* to the contrary, the Nazi-planned racist rally aimed at some of our residents and our Austin neighbors will not be less deliberately provocative just because we ignore it. Let those who wish to stay home do so, but some of us will exercise our right to witness publicly our opposition to racism in solidarity with our fellow residents and neighbors."

●

Direct Action Committee/WRL (Evansville, Indiana) organized a regional WRL conference September 26-28 in Evansville. The theme of the conference was "Building a Nonviolent Movement in the 80's". Speakers included Ernest Sternglass, Professor of Radiological Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh, on "Nuclear, the First Threat; David McReynolds, WRL National Staff, on "Building a Nonviolent Movement for the 80's"; John Judge, CCCO National Staff, on "Registration and the Draft"; and additional sessions on racism, sexism, synfuels, prisons, American Indian concerns, violence in the home, nuclear power, and so forth. The purpose of the conference was two-fold: educational and networking.



St. Louis National Anti-Draft Week march stopped to talk with people at General Dynamics Headquarters, the closed-down General Motors Plant, closed-down Homer G. Phillips Hospital and the V.A.

St. Louis WRL participated with St. Louis CARD in sponsoring a march and motorcade for "Peace and Jobs" culminating Anti-Draft Week. Approximately 100-150 people marched from the international headquarters of General Dynamics, a Trident submarine manufacturer, passed a closed General Motors assembly plant, and Homer G. Phillips hospital. The antidraft marchers were greeted with applause and shouts of support as they proceeded along a ten mile route through the St. Louis black community. Nearly 10,000 jobs were lost as a result of the General Motors plant closing. There is no full service public hospital in the black community with the closing of Homer G. Phillips hospital. The demonstration was considered quite successful.

WRL Protests China Bomb Test

The War Resisters League joined Womens Strike For Peace in a demonstration on October 24 at the Chinese Mission to the UN to protest the latest China atmospheric nuclear test. The WRL held a similar protest in November 1976 with a leaflet declaring "Socialist fallout is just as dangerous as capitalist fallout."

Southern California WRL (Los Angeles, California) organized a great fundraiser to kick off Anti-Draft Week, "Dance the Draft Away". The dance had live reggae music and attracted high school students. The Local organized an education forum on the draft, militarism in education and in the mind.

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Ozarks Area WRL (Springfield, Missouri) picketed and leafleted in July at their local post office about alternatives to registration. In addition they held a rally. During the fall they have been reaching high school students through articles and advertisements in school newspapers, and leafleting at various events.

The group was organized in June with four goals: to actively oppose all parts of the conscription process; to provide accurate information about registration and alternatives; to provide draft counseling; and to provide a support group for resisters.

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In addition to Ozarks Area WRL, two new locals were formed in the last month: **New Brunswick WRL** (New Brunswick, New Jersey) and **Lamoille Peace Coalition/ WRL** (N. Hyde Park, Vermont).

Grace Hedemann is on the national staff of WRL.

Energy Department Gears Up Nuclear Weapons Complex

... *But Opposition Organizes*

By Wendy Batson

The Plutonium Gap

In a joint communique issued by the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. last year, President Carter and President Brezhnev noted "the profound threat posed to world security by the proliferation of nuclear weapons" and agreed that the nuclear weapons states bear "special responsibility to demonstrate restraint" in this regard. Many arms control experts maintain that a production ban on nuclear weapons material—like plutonium—would be a logical and feasible next step in arms limitation. Recent events, however, demonstrate beyond a doubt that restraint is the last thing the US government has in mind.

On September 26, 1980, high-ranking national security and foreign policy aides, meeting at the White House, decided to expand plutonium production for the first time since the early 1960's. Mr. Carter has approved several new nuclear weapons for deployment in the 1980's, including the MX mobile missile, the Trident submarine-launched rocket, and air and sea-launched cruise missiles. The Department of Defense contends that plutonium stockpiles may not be sufficient to produce the necessary warheads for these new armaments.

The decision to increase plutonium production has frightening implications. Carter's move marks a significant departure from the policy first laid down by President Johnson in the mid 1960's. Johnson shut down several nuclear plants in a successful unilateral move to persuade other nations to give up some bomb-related activities.

Several alternatives exist for building up the plutonium stockpile. Carter could restart the "L" reactor at the Savannah River, N.C. nuclear complex; or he could order the converson of the "N" reactor at Hanford, Washington from production of fuel-grade plutonium to bomb-grade plutonium, a move requiring the restarting of a Purex (not the bleach company) plutonium reprocessing plant, also located at Hanford. All of these options have serious consequences both for the local communities where increased plutonium production would take place and for international attempts to halt nuclear proliferation. The proposal for restarting Purex, in particular, makes absurd the administration's moves to get Britain, France, Japan and other countries to renounce reprocessing as a means of holding down worldwide plutonium stockpiles. The decision to increase plutonium production at the very time the U.S. is discouraging foreign governments from acquiring stockpiles of this material makes complete nonsense of our supposed non-proliferation stance.

Department of Energy Expansion

Controversy over widened plutonium production forms part of a larger debate over the future of the Government's nuclear weapons complex. The Pentagon and the Department of Energy, which runs the bomb complex, have been insisting lately that existing facilities cannot meet the requirements for warheads laid down by President Carter for the coming decade. Even the popular press is sounding the alarm. The August 11, 1980, *Newsweek* carried an article entitled "Our Obsolete H-Bomb Factory" which pointed out that the Pantex Plant in Texas, (where nuclear warheads are assembled) "so vital to our national security" is plagued by an astounding variety of problems, many of them dangerous to surrounding communities' health and safety. A confidential report on the state of America's bomb machine, prepared last year for Congress by the DOE, concluded that "serious deterioration of equipment and utilities had occurred over the past several years which could seriously impair our ability to meet the nuclear weapons forecast for the 1980's."

In another related development, an Interagency Committee studying long range US nuclear weapons needs has recommended construction, beginning in the 1990's, of a $3 billion production reactor to keep providing nuclear materials for warheads and bombs. According to the *Washington Post,* "The new production reactor would be the first built for the weapons program in 26 years and would represent a major step toward modernizing the aging nuclear arms-building complex." This same study also recommends a $500 million program to upgrade the DOE weapons facilities around the country.

All of this concern about DOE weapons facilities is leading us toward an enormous commitment to expand the US weapons complex. Increases in the Department of Energy Budget for FY1981 reflects government commitment to weapons facilities expansion. As these facilities gear up to produce America's first-strike weaponry, we can expect both increased risks of nuclear war and higher levels of radioactive contamination for local communities. Weapons testing at the Nevada Test Site is up and the Rocky Flats Action Project organizers report that production levels at the Rockwell plant in Denver are up as well. Yet at a time when DOE officials are paving the way to extend the arms race well into the 21st century, few Americans are even aware that energy has anything to do with armaments.

Unacceptable Costs

In late September, 1980, organizers focusing on DOE weapons facilities from around the country met in Colorado to discuss how best to respond to the escalating arms race. The Weapons Facilities Task Force Conference discussed recent weapons development (Cruise Missile, the MX, and the Trident) and the new first strike policy (Presidential Directive 59). Until recently, many of these weapons facilities organizers felt that their greatest strength and effectiveness lay with focusing on a local facility. Now with a Cold War atmosphere on the rise, organizers realized the need to make a dramatic, coordinated statement about the dangers posed by increased plutonium production and DOE expansion.

The group agreed to initiate coordinated demonstrations, public forums, radiation victims hearings, etc., on April 25, 1981, at DOE facilities and offices across the country. Some communities will form citizen delegations to send to Washington, D.C., the following week. The local character of these decentralized, coordinated actions will make visible "The Great American Bomb Machine" and what it costs us all.

For more information about the DOE and its weapons related work, contact the DOE Committee, U.C. Labs Project, 944 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94102. For more information about April 25th organizing and activities, write WRL.

Wendy Batson works with the U.C. Labs Project and is DOE Committee Convenor for the Nuclear Weapons Facilities Task Force.

Walk With The Marion Brothers

On the walk *Photo by Alice Windom*

Marion, Illinois . . . Hundreds of black, white, Native American and Puerto Rican people came together in southern Illinois for the 125-mile "Walk With The Marion Brothers" on September 2-13. while 15 to 20 walkers covered each leg of the walk route, larger gatherings came together for three different rallies outside the U.S. Courthouse in East St. Louis, the Menard, Illinois State Prison's Death Row and the Marion, Illinois Federal Prison. Along the walk route, educational forums were held in churches in small towns with names like Red Bud, DuQoin and Murphysoboro.

About four hundred singing, chanting people attended the culminating march and rally on Sept. 13th at Marion. As they marched down the rural road toward the prison, a U.S. Army helicopter appeared, then buzzed the crowd again and again. Many participants later said the helicopter buzzing "made me really realize what this issue is all about—government repression."

While in impressive list of southern Illinois church leaders kicked off the walk in East St. Louis, the rally at Marion was more political in tone. Speakers included Puerto Rican independence leader Raphael Cancel Miranda; American Indian Movement (AIM) leader Steve Robideaux; Larry Gara of War Resisters League; Rev. Leon White of the United Church of Christ; Audrey Aronson Myers of the National Committee to Support the Marion Brothers; the family of Leonard Peltier and Marie Tolbert, mother of one of the Seventeen Pontiac Brothers. Rev. Ben Chavis was prevented from travelling to attend the rally by his parole board, and another scheduled speaker Daniel Berrigan was in jail as a result of a civil disobedience action at a Pennsylvania nuclear bomb plant.

Every speaker called on the crowd to join in the struggle to close the Marion control unit "because every one of us could end up in prisons like Marion with the way America is moving to the right." Miranda reminded the crowd that "We are the majority in this fight for freedom and that's why this government is so frightened of us." He said his years of imprisonment at Marion "couldn't break me" and that "The government that runs this prison is the real criminal. I saw them murder my people in Puerto Rico when I was a youth," he said, "and you have seen the genocidal murders of Native American and Black people right here in this country." Larry Gara of WRL said, "The control and

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WRL Local Groups

NATIONAL OFFICE, 339 Lafayette Street, New York, NY 10012 (212-228-0450).

REGIONAL OFFICES

WRL/Southeast, 604 West Chapel Hill Street, Durham, NC 27701 (919-682-6374).
WRL/West, 85 Carl Street, San Francisco, CA 94117 (415-731-1220).

LOCAL OFFICES

Albuquerque WRL, 201 Pine S.E., Albuquerque, NM 87106 (505-243-6169).
Detroit WRL, 1542 W. Alexandrine, Detroit, MI 48208 (313-833-3197).
Direct Action Committee/WRL, 413 S.E. 1st #C, Evansville, IN 47713.
Foothills WRL, 3024 Ross Drive #A-4, Ft. Collins, CO 80521 (303-482-9641; 482-0369).
Hawaii WRL/catholic Action, 1918 University Avenue, Honolulu, HI 96822 (808-949-1210).
Inland Empire WRL, 1336 North Wall Avenue, San Bernardino, CA 92404 (714-889-3170).
LaCrosse Area WRL, 126 Wentz Hall, U.W. at LaCrosse, LaCrosse, WI 54601 (608-782-2986).
Lamoille Peace Coalition/WRL, P.O. Box 63, North Hyde Park, VT 05665 (802-635-7077).
Monmouth County WRL, P.O. Box 131, Fair Haven, NJ 07701 (201-774-9419; 747-0566).
Morgantown WRL, 912½ Monongahlea Avenue, Morgantown, WV 26505 (304-292-9678).
Muncie/Ball State WRL, P.O. Box 401 Student Center, Muncie, IN 47306 (317-289-6710).
New Brunswick WRL, 443 Cedar Grove Lane, Somerset, NJ 08873 (201-356-6083).
New York City WRL, 339 Lafayette Street, New York, NY 10012.
Oak Park WRL, 645 North Taylor, Oak Park, IL 60302 (312-386-0192).
Ozarks Area WRL, P. O. Box 3541 GS, Springfield, MO 65804 (417-864-4078).
Philadelphia WRL/WTR, 2208 South Street, Philadelphia, PA 19146 (215-545-4626).
Rochester WRL, 713 Monroe Avenue, Rochester, NY 14607 (716-244-7191, 473-2949).
St. Louis WRL, 4556 A Oakland, St. Louis, MO 63110 (314-533-2234).
Southern California WRL, 866¼ E. Kensington Road, Los Angeles, CA 90026 (213-629-2998).

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Raphael Cancel Miranda speaking at the Marion rally. Photo by Alice Windom

containment policies at Marion and other prisons have made rehabilitation an empty phrase. You can't have rehabilitation in control units where they put you in solitary all day and night." Rev. Leon White, who came from North Carolina, linked the Marion Brothers' struggle with the struggle against racism in Miami and "every place the Ku Klux Klan raises its ugly head." He said that while "the Klan is experimenting with racist violence in North Carolina, and the police are experimenting with brutality in Miami and other cities, the U.S. government is conducting behavior control experiments at Marion, Illinois."

Audrey Aronson Myers, one of the main walk organizers, said that "After this rally, we are going to organize a National Citizen's Commission to tour and inspect Marion just like they had to start doing in the mines and the factories and the food processing plants back in the early part of this century." She said the commission "will include doctors, nurses, psychologists, labor leaders, judges, criminal justice experts, religious leaders, educators and other concerned citizens." Steve Robideaux of AIM gave the crowd a dramatic account of the frame-up and imprisonment of Leonard Peltier, another AIM leader now being held at Marion. He said Peltier was framed "because he organized and spoke out against the uranium mining companies who are taking our land and then, with the government's help, spreading cancer among our people."

The Marion, Illinois Federal Prison replaced Alcatraz as *the* maximum security prison in the U.S. The long-term control unit is an indefinite solitary confinement unit which the U.S. Bureau of Prisons uses as a special lock-up for activist prisoners. Federal court rulings have said torture methods have been used in the unit and that it has been used "to silence prison critics, religious leaders, economic and philosophical dissidents." Major national churches such as the United Church of Christ, United Methodist Church and United Presbyterian Churches have called for Congressional hearings on the Marion control unit and the Bureau of Prisons' overall "control and containment" policies.

For more information contact: *National Committee to Support the Marion Brothers*, 4556a Oakland, St. Louis, Missouri 63110, 314-533-2234.

Hammering Away at our Nuclear Arsenal

By Elmer Maas

On September 9, 1980, eight persons, Rev. Daniel Berrigan, Philip Berrigan, Dean Hammer, Rev. Carl Kabat, Sr. Anne Montgomery, Molly Rush, John Schuchardt, and myself—all of us members of the Atlantic Life Community—went to King of Prussia, Pennsylvania to perform a nonviolent enactment of beating swords into plowshares. For this action we selected components of nuclear weapons systems made at the General Electric Plant No. 9. We were arrested and held on 13 changes (later reduced to 8) and are now awaiting trial.

In this article for WRL friends, I thought I would discuss a few of the details of this action after noting some of the reasons why it seemed important to do, and why G.E. was selected as a focus.

First, and most important, the production of nuclear weapons, considering their implied ultimate use, is an act of war, and is criminal. Since no person on earth would be spared the direct or indirect effects of nuclear war, the production of nuclear weapons is a crime against humanity.

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KING OF PRUSSIA ACTION
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Events of recent years and months, especially having to do with the development of counterforce weapons speak directly to the rapidly increasing danger of nuclear war. A weaponry of first strike capability, which is to say, having sufficient accuracy and strength to blunt the retaliatory ability of an enemy has been in development for years and is becoming a physical reality.

As counterforce weapons are deployed around the globe, the weapons systems of individual nations will be placed on a "launch on warning" basis, which, even in the absence of an intentional war, will make world survival all but totally dependent upon the reliability of electronic monitoring systems. A hint of just what this means is revealed through those several occasions in just the last year when early warning systems have falsely signalled an enemy attack.

Those of us who engaged in the enactment of beating swords into plowshares did so with the intention of focusing upon the real threat that the General Electric Company poses to the survival of humanity. As a prime Pentagon contractor, General Electric has been a long-time profiteer on the arms race, and is now directly engaged in the designing and production of counterforce weapons. G.E. has been heavily involved in almost every aspect of the nuclear power industry from the mining of uranium, the production of plutonium, and the building of reactors to the storage of radioactive wastes.

These years have not been without their rewards. From 1967 to 1977 G.E. received in excess of $12 billion from Pentagon contracts, an average of three million dollars per day at an average profit of 19%. To continue to reap such profits when the budgets for the meeting of human needs are reduced, amounts to gross larceny, a corporate crime echoing across the land in the Charlotte Streets of broken promises and burned out hopes.

In going to G.E. on the morning of Sept. 9 we focused on G.E. production of the Mark 12A because it is a weapon of very great lethal power that can only be used as part of a first-strike, counterforce weapon system. It is a re-entry vehicle, three of which will be carried and released into the atmosphere by every Minuteman III missile. Each Mark 12A will have a destructive force 30 times as great as the bomb dropped on Hiroshima and each Mark 12A will have the speed, accuracy, strength, and range to strike and destroy the nuclear arsenal of an adversary before retaliatory forces can be brought into play.

It was our hope that our act might suggest the actual peaceful destruction of all nuclear weapons as a viable alternative

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Fight the Draft—Resist War Taxes

A few months ago, a lot of 19- and 20-year-old men, risking five years in prison and a $10,000 fine, courageously refused to register for the draft.

Many of us who opposed the draft were involved in civil disobedience actions and encouraging registration resistance. However, these acts are much less risky than openly not registering.

Another action against war and the draft that both women and men of any age can take is to refuse to pay the Federal Income tax. Though the penalities are less than those who don't register, it is a way to sever connections with the warmaking machinery and act in solidarity with draft resisters.

The first problem facing most tax resisters is stopping withholding, so you have the opportunity to resist come April 15. For those of you who wish to explore this method of war resistance, write to WRL for a free copy of a "Call to War Tax Resistance;" or send $3 for the WRL *Tax Resistance Kit.*

Poster Available From WRL

"Don't Pay War Taxes"

$1.00

☐ Enclosed is $ _____

Please send _____ posters to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Return to: WRL, 339 Lafayette St., New York, NY 10012

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to the arms race. We carried simple tools—hammers that can damage, but also reshape and create.

We entered the plant through the back entrance at the beginning of the morning shift. Anne Montgomery and Carl Kabat went to speak with the guard as the rest of us continued in. Once inside we made a quick right turn, a left, and another right through a door that led us to the "non-destruct"(!) test area for the Mark 12A. Finding two nose cones, one already carbon-bonded for its 20,000 m.p.h. journey through the atmosphere, we began a hammering process that rendered the two cones unusable as instruments of war. Human blood was poured on drafting materials and nearby desks.

As soon as a G.E. security person started to approach we laid our hammers on the floor and formed a circle chanting, singing songs of peace, and explaining our action to G.E. employees who were beginning to gather.

Shortly upon the arrival of police we were taken to the Upper Merion township station for booking, and later in the afternoon, for an appearance before the magistrate. During the course of that days wait, the state, in collaboration with G.E. managed to fabricate a total of 13 charges against us, the most absurd including aggravated assault, terroristic threats, false imprisonment, and criminal coercion. Dan Berrigan and Phil Berrigan were held without bail, and Anne Montgomery, Molly Rush, Carl Kabat, John Schuschardt, Dean Hammer and I were held on $125,000 bail.

The state seems to be going to some length to suggest that we somehow threatened G.E. employees; this in spite of our careful and consistent effort to act non-violently and communicate our peaceful intentions whenever possible. To a large extent the state's fabrications were exposed at the preliminary hearing when five charges having to do with assault and terrorising threats, etc., were dropped. Some of the remaining charges still impune our action. The charges still brought against us are burglary, simple assault, criminal trespass, criminal coercion, harassment, criminal mischief, disorderly conduct, and criminal conspiracy. As we go forward into trial we will continue to make clear our nonviolent intent and call attention to G.E. as the perpetrator of crimes of unthinkable consequence.

Meanwhile seven of us remain in prison. Daniel Berrigan, for reasons of health, has been released on bail set at $50,000. The women, both originally held in Berks Co. jail have been sent to separate prisons, with Anne Montgomery at Washington Co. Prison, Box P., Washington, PA 15301 and Molly Rush at Lebanon County Correctional Facility, 730 E. Walnut, Lebanon, PA 17042.

The men remain at Montgomery Co. Prison, 35 E. Airy St., Norristown, PA 19401.

The pulsebeat of jail—a kind of healing river in soul time—helps to clarify many of the inequities and injustices that plague American life. For it is in its prisons that America tries to bury its guilty consciences, preferring to blame the poor and racially oppressed—the innocent—for its crimes; all the while heaping its most lavish rewards on those who for the sake of personal profit, preserving the status quo, or whatever, have ransomed the future.

In a nutshell the message from September 9 is that if we do not wish to have nuclear weapons around, we simply do not have to put up with them—at all. It is possible to take control of our lives and seek a society free from war. It is inconvenient to do so, but it is worth it.

Elmer Maas has been an active WRL member in New York City for many years, and we hope to see him again, real soon. For more information on the case, contact Brandywine Peace Community, 51 Barren Rd., Media, PA 19063 (215) 565-0247.

WRL STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The War Resisters League affirms that war is a crime against humanity. We therefore are determined not to support any kind of war, international or civil, and to strive nonviolently for the removal of all the causes of war.

I support this statement and wish to enroll as a member of the War Resisters League.

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

send to
War Resisters League
339 Lafayette Street
New York, NY 10012

New Book Available From WRL

At last—the story of the World War I COs by the only American jailed in both World War I and World War II, Julius Eichel. In World War I COs were under the military and were treated more harshly than in World War II. Fourteen of them were sentenced to death (later commuted to 99 years). The title of this book is *The Judge Said "20 Years"* .... 100 pp/$2.00

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Street Fair '80

September 13 & 14 was a wonderful weekend for the Annual War Resisters League and Washington Square Methodist Church Street Fair—lots of sun, just a few clouds, a little rain, lots of vendors, plenty of volunteers, and lots of people eating, drinking and buying their way through our booths. Proceeds from this year's Fair were quite good, indicating that we did even better than last year.

To all those who contributed their used jackets, bowling balls, or books, the fruit of their culinary labors or precious hours of their time, we send our thanks.

WRL NEWS

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WRL is the U.S. branch of the War Resisters' International, a pacifist organization with affiliates in 18 countries and individuals in more than 80 countries.

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WRL News (from 1967 on) is available on microfilm from University Microfilms International, 300 N. Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106.